

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency

Vincent C. Gray
Mayor



Jennifer Greene
Interim Director

April 26, 2012

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: RM-11433

Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Seeks Comment on Petition for Waiver of Rules Filed by the State of Maryland Requesting Permission to Operate Air-to-Ground Radio Equipment in 700 MHz Secondary Trunking Channels

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The District of Columbia supports the Petition for Waiver referenced above as filed by the State of Maryland. In the Petition, Maryland desires to utilize fallow 700 MHz radio channels, currently identified as “secondary trunking channels” in support of law enforcement, emergency medical services (“EMS”), and other public safety operations.

In the event of a catastrophe affecting the District of Columbia, the airborne assets of Maryland could be required to preserve life and protect property. The border areas between the District and State of Maryland are typically transparent and interoperability between our first responders is absolutely vital.

The District notes that the Technical Committee of Regional Planning Committee Twenty (“Region 20”) has reviewed the frequencies to be used by Maryland if the Petition is granted and we do not anticipate any interference. Additionally, the District has no plans to deploy any stations on the current “secondary trunking interoperability channels” as we support the nationwide P25 standard adopted by the Department of Homeland Security. Accordingly, the District of Columbia encourages the Federal Communications Commission to act favorably on the Maryland Petition for Waiver.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua Jack
Statewide Interoperability Coordinator
District of Columbia

